

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/AU2004/000913

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

Int. Cl. ⁷: C01B 3/02, C12P 3/00, H01M 8/16

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

WPIDS, JAPIO, CA, BIOSIS plus keywords: hydrogen, microorganism, photosynthesis and similar terms

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	Hippler, M. <i>et al.</i> <i>Chlamydomonas</i> genetics, a tool for the study of bioenergetic pathways. <i>Biochimica et Biophysica Acta</i> (1998) volume 1367, pages 1-62. See page 43, right column and page 53 right column to page 54 left column.	23-27
A	Ghirardi, M. L <i>et al.</i> Microalgae: a green source of renewable H ₂ . <i>Trends in Biotechnology</i> (2000) volume 18, pages 506-511.	1-22
A	Melis, A. <i>et al.</i> Sustained photobiological hydrogen gas production upon reversible inactivation of oxygen evolution in the green algae <i>Chlamydomonas reinhardtii</i> . <i>Plant Physiology</i> (2000) volume 122 pages 127-135.	1-22
A	Polle, J. E. W. <i>et al.</i> Truncated chlorophyll antenna size of the photosystems - a practical method to improve microalgal productivity and hydrogen production in mass culture. <i>International Journal of Hydrogen Energy</i> (2002) volume 27, pages 1257-1264.	1-22



Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C



See patent family annex

* Special categories of cited documents: "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance	"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
"E" earlier application or patent but published on or after the international filing date	"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
"L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)	"Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art
"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means	"&" document member of the same patent family
"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed	

Date of the actual completion of the international search
2 August 2004

Date of mailing of the international search report
- 5 AUG 2004

Name and mailing address of the ISA/AU

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Box No. II Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)

This international search report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:
2. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they relate to parts of the international application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful international search can be carried out, specifically:
3. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a)

Box No. III Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 3 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:

See Supplemental Box.

1. ☐ As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers all searchable claims.
2. ☒ As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.
3. ☐ As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:
4. ☐ No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this international search report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:

Remark on Protest

- ☐ The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest.
- ☐ No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

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Supplemental Box

(To be used when the space in any of Boxes I to VIII is not sufficient)

Continuation of Box No: III

The international application does not comply with the requirements of unity of invention because it does not relate to one invention or to a group of inventions so linked as to form a single general inventive concept. In coming to this conclusion the International Searching Authority has found that there are different inventions as follows:

1. Claims 1-22, 27 and 28. It is considered that the process for the production of hydrogen using a hydrogenase-expressing microorganism, capable of photosynthetic electron transfer, wherein regulation of the mitochondrial electron transport chain is disrupted such that electron transfer to cytochrome oxidase is reduced, comprises a first 'special technical feature'.
2. Claims 23 and 24. It is considered that the process for the enhancement of biomass production using a hydrogenase-expressing microorganism, capable of photosynthetic electron transfer, wherein regulation of the mitochondrial electron transport chain is disrupted such that electron transfer to cytochrome oxidase is reduced, comprises a second special technical feature.
3. Claims 25 and 26. It is considered that the process for sequestering carbon from an external nutrient supply using a hydrogenase-expressing microorganism, capable of photosynthetic electron transfer, wherein regulation of the mitochondrial electron transport chain is disrupted such that electron transfer to cytochrome oxidase is reduced, comprises a third special technical feature.

These groups are not so linked as to form a single general inventive concept, that is, they do not have any common inventive features, which define a contribution over the prior art. The common concept linking together these groups of claims is the microorganism with the features defined above. However this concept is not novel in the light of Hippler, M. *et al.* Therefore these claims lack unity *a posteriori*.